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NOVEMBER SENATE MEETING

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Senate Chair Robert Dietle read the names of the twelve faculty members who have been appointed to the Senate's Faculty Committee to Review Western XXI. These are:

College of Business: Douglas Fugate, Thomas Noser, Linda Johnson; College of Education: Joyce Rasdall, Sally Kuhlenschmidt, Barbara Kacer; Odgen College: Joe Winstead, Claus Ernst, Linda Brown; Potter College: Richard Weigel, Michael Seidler, Lynn Newhart.

The committee has elected Richard Weigel as its chair, and, according to Senator Dietle, wishes to be contacted by faculty members with ideas and suggestions.

The student government has spoken to Chair Dietle about the possibility of introducing "plus" and "minus" grades. He suggested that the Academic Affairs Committee might want to look into this.

BENEFITS COMMITTEE REPORT

Charles Henrickson reported that this committee has been considering annuity plans, ways for faculty and staff to get prescriptions at lower cost, and an optional mental health rider, covering extended care, that can be added to our normal health insurance.

He also discussed the various health insurance plans that faculty and staff can choose from. All of us have by now received descriptions of these plans and have presumably read them and chosen one.

FACULTY REGENT REPORT

Faculty Regent Ray Mendel again listed the three budget priorities listed in his report in the October 28, 1993, Faculty Senate Newsletter (faculty and staff compensation, minority recruitment and retention, campus technology and networking), and noted that the Board has added a fourth priority, maintenance, to the list.

The Board did not adopt the recommendation of the Academic Committee to suspend the MBA program, which has been inactive for several years.

Mendel said that the Board has not been dealing, as a Board, with the problems arising from the creation of the Higher Education Review Commission. He has written a letter to the Chair of the Board requesting that the Board be involved as an entity in this effort, but (as of November 11), the Board has not had any discussion, as a Board, of the activities of this Commission.

According to the Faculty Regent, there are two schools of thought regarding the Commission: one is that nothing much is going to come of it; the other is that the very tight time frame is designed to restrict opposition to the recommendations made by the Commission. Mendel believes it would be a risky strategy to believe that nothing will come of it.

Mendel showed the Senate a list of the fifteen core programs, and a compilation of data related to the non-core programs, which has by now been sent to all departmental senators and should be made available to their constituents.

He said also that the Commission is to revise the mission statements of the state universities, and that the revised mission statements will have a far-reaching impact on the determination of which programs survive at a given university.

OLD BUSINESS

The resolution urging the establishment of a University Library Oversight Committee received its second reading, and carried.

A motion was made by Mary Ellen Miller to add representatives of the Community College and the University Libraries to the Senate's Faculty Committee to Review Western XXI. The motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Glenn Lohr proposed the following resolution on maintaining Western's status as a comprehensive university:

Whereas, the faculty of Western Kentucky University has striven since 1906 to make the University a respected center of learning,

Whereas, the Western Kentucky University faculty excels in both basic and applied research,

Whereas, Western Kentucky University faculty members have earned reputations which enable them to provide service on a regional, national, and international level,

Whereas, the ninety-six academic majors and six master's degrees attract students from throughout Kentucky, the United States, and foreign countries,

Whereas, the faculty of Western Kentucky University is expected to respond to regional, national, and international issues relative to its teaching, research, and service roles,

Let it be resolved that the Faculty Senate of Western Kentucky University strongly supports the revised mission statement of Western Kentucky University as attached and encourages President Meredith to champion this statement as deliberations continue on the subject of University mission statements.

Barry Brunson moved a "friendly amendment" to the last paragraph of this resolution, altering it to read,

Let it be resolved that the Faculty Senate of Western Kentucky University strongly supports the concept of Western Kentucky University as a comprehensive University and encourages President Meredith to champion this cause as deliberations continue on the subject of University mission statements.

Senator Lohr approved of this amendment, and it was accepted [in a casual violation of parliamentary procedure - ed.]. The amended resolution carried.